

Message Text

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71

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 (ADP) W

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R 191719Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2755

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 08345

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PINT, MI

SUBJECT: CHIPEMBERE

REF: STATE 116040

1. MAY 10 "FOCUS ON AFRICA" INTERVIEW WITH HENRY CHIPEMBERE WAS ARRANGED AT BBC'S INITIATIVE. FOREIGN OFFICE ATTEMPTED TO DISSUADE BBC FROM GOING THROUGH WITH IT ON GROUNDS THAT CHIPEMBERE HAD DONE NOTHING NEWSWORTHY OF LATE AND THAT GIVING HIM PLATFORM WOULD BE GRATUITOUS MEDDLING IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FRIENDLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY. THIS ARGUMENT OBVIOUSLY DID NOT SWAY BBC WHO STOOD ON PRINCIPLE OF JOURNALISTIC FREEDOM. FCO WAS PLEASED THAT THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE REACTION TO INTERVIEW FROM PRESIDENT BANDA BUT SPECULATE THAT HE MAY BE KEEPING IT UP HIS SLEEVE SHOULD HE DECIDE AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE THAT CHIPEMBERE NEEDED TO HAVE HIS KNUCKLES RAPPED.

2. IN THE INTERVIEW CHIPEMBERE BEGAN BY SAYING THAT HE HAD NOT MADE ANY DEFINITE PLANS ABOUT RETURNING TO AFRICA BUT SAID THIS WAS SOMETHING HE WAS TRYING TO WORK TOWARDS "AT ANY CONVENIENT MOMENT". FULL TEXT BEING POUCHED DEPT, AF/S AND EMBASSY BLANTYRE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: garlanwa
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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